

**SACRAMENTO RIVER  
CONSERVATION AREA**

c/o California Department of Water Resources  
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**SRCA NOTES**

**August, 2001**

❖ **Project Activities and Updates**

At the July 9<sup>th</sup> project meeting, the Corps of Engineers presented possible levee alignments for **Hamilton City**; HCCSD and local landowners have met with COE staff to define their preferred location. **M&T/Llano Seco** - Interested stakeholders met on July 18<sup>th</sup> for a presentation by Stillwater Science to discuss possible alternatives for short and long-term solutions to the gravel bar encroachment. The short-term recommendation is to take the gravel bar back to its 1995 line which would hopefully hold through several storm events.

**Sacramento River Partners** is doing a hydrological engineering study for the State of California Reclamation Board covering the Moulton Weir project. This is part of the Sacramento River Partners' policy of studying possible adverse flood effects before initiating project design and planting.

**Research and Long-term Monitoring in the Beehive Bend Sub-Reach – reported by The Nature Conservancy**

The Nature Conservancy, through Sub-Reach Planning, has identified three topic areas that warrant further study in the Beehive Bend Sub-Reach. These areas are: current composition of riparian vegetation, rate of riparian forest recruitment based on river management strategies, and success of riparian restoration in providing chinook salmon habitat. Researchers at Chico State University have been contracted to examine these three study areas. Work on this project began this month with reports due out when the contract ends in the spring of 2003. For more information call Mike Roberts at 897-6378.

**Hydraulic modeling complete in the Beehive Bend Sub-Reach – reported by The Nature Conservancy**

Hydraulic modeling in the Beehive Bend Sub-Reach has been completed by Ayres Associates. This modeling looks at balancing restoration, flood control, and other land uses on a large scale. A report summarizes the findings of the modeling. For more information call Mike Roberts with The Nature Conservancy at 897-6378.

**July 19<sup>th</sup> TAC Meeting - Discussion Items:**

- Jessica Rios from "Friends of the River" spoke about a proposed National Conservation Area north of Red Bluff and a proposal to list a section of the Sacramento River under Federal Wild & Scenic status.
- The Landowner Assurances Committee met on July 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss the scope, objectives, and deliverables of the Committee. Another meeting is scheduled for August 9<sup>th</sup> in Colusa.
- Princeton-Codora-Glenn Irrigation District discussed the problem they are experiencing at their pumping plant because the river is moving away from the pumps.
- Proposed Handbook amendments – the TAC reviewed the amendments again before a determination was made concerning recommendations to the Board. There were suggested changes made at the July 19<sup>th</sup> meeting; the Committee discussed each of the suggestions and there was consensus that the language as proposed for the Inner River Zone guidelines in Reach 1, 3 & 4, Hard Points, and Impacts of Bank Stabilization move forward to the Board as recommended Handbook amendments. The Committee also agreed that the suggestions and concerns noted today should be forwarded to the Board.

- ✓ **Correction:** The State of the Sacramento River Conference will be held **November 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>** at the Red Bluff Community Center.
- ✓ Northern Sacramento Water Forum will hold a meeting on August 16<sup>th</sup> at the Heidrick Ag. Center, Woodland, from 1-3. Discussion will include the Klamath Basin, the Tule Lake decision, and the Biological Opinion on riprap on the Sacramento River.

Scott Clemons from the Wildlife Conservation Board informed the TAC committee of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program which would give cash incentives to farmers for developing wildlife habitat on marginal cropland with a ten-year minimum commitment. Anyone interested can contact the Farm Service Agency for more information.

**A Public Informational Workshop** was held in Princeton on July 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss the proposed inner river zone guidelines in Reach 3. There were approximately 120 stakeholders in attendance and many of the concerns raised at the Meridian workshop were expressed here as well. Many of the issues are ones that the Landowner Assurances Committee is currently attempting to address. The proposed inner river zone definition was modified to include language that was suggested at that meeting and the July 19<sup>th</sup> TAC meeting.

**July 26<sup>th</sup> SRCA Board Meeting –Discussion Items:**

- The CALFED Proposal Solicitation Package will be out for review the first week of August and will be due back September 21<sup>st</sup>. The SRCA will review projects at the August TAC and Board meetings.
- The Board reviewed the proposed Handbook amendments recommended by the TAC. The Board moved to accept the language on the inner river zone in Reach 1, Reach 4, "Hard Points" and Bank Stabilization and directed the staff to move forward with the amendment process. The language for the inner river zone in Reach 3 was accepted, with the inclusion of additional language suggested by Les Heringer, and direction to the TAC to see if there would be a better location in the Handbook for that additional language. A suggestion was made that the Language for the Ag Conservation Area move forward with direction to the TAC that they continue to discuss. September 27<sup>th</sup> was set for the Amendment Review meeting date.
- Field Supervisor Wayne White and Lt. Col. Robert O'Brien were not able to attend; however, Dan Castleberry informed the Board that there had been progress on the Biological Opinion. There has been a non-jeopardy agreement that will allow construction to begin at RM 149, hopefully in the fall.

➤ **Frequently Asked Questions:**

**Q** What is “Sub-reach and Site-specific” planning?

**A** The Sacramento River Conservation Area Handbook outlines site-specific planning as a mechanism to identify the current condition of a particular sub-reach and determine a realistic strategy to accomplish a proposed activity within that area. At the sub-reach level (an stretch of the river with similar characteristics), components to be considered would include: Flood effects, current landownership, restoration opportunities, economic impacts, public access and recreation, critical infrastructure, wildlife habitat including sensitive and endangered species, local need and interest, and natural river processes. Technical tools such as; hydrologic and hydraulic models, the Geographic Information System, biological inventories, economic studies, and land use and geologic surveys can be used to help all interested parties develop plans that provide the best development and management solution for the activity.

Sub-reach planning should be done prior to specific projects to identify the issues and problems that may not be noticed at an individual site. The location of anticipated river movement is critical to establishing infrastructure such as pumping plants, bridges and flood control facilities. Conversely, the location of those structures must be considered when restoration activities are planned. Careful planning, using the multitude of tools and knowledge we have, can assure that all activities provide the benefits anticipated.

- The **CALFED Proposal Solicitation Package** will be out the first or second week in August with a turn-around date of September 21<sup>st</sup>. There will be a line item on the August 16<sup>th</sup> TAC agenda and on the August 23<sup>rd</sup> Board agenda for proposal reviews; this will give those requesting funding through CALFED/CVPIA an opportunity to discuss potential projects within the Sacramento River Conservation Area.

**Future SRCA TAC/Board Meetings:**

- **Next TAC meeting** August 16<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m., Willows City Hall, Willows
- **Next SRCA Board meeting** August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 4:00 p.m., Willows City Hall, Willows